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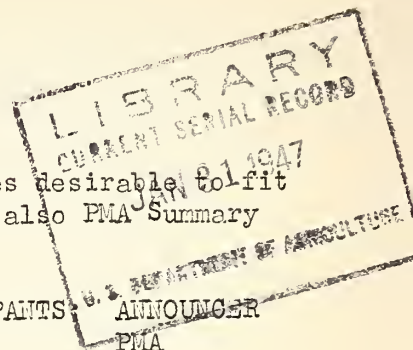
Approx. Time: 15 min.
October 2, 1946

YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD
(Weekly Script No. 130)

(Time all scripts in advance. Suggest you make any changes desirable to fit script to local picture. News releases from this office, also PMA Summary are good sources of additional material.)

SUBJECTS: MEAT SHORTAGE
SCRAP METAL DRIVE

PARTICIPANTS: ANNOUNCER
PMA



BANGING OF GAVEL

ANNOUNCER: Your Family's Food! This is YOUR program, brought to you by the United States Department of Agriculture...YOUR program to keep you up to date on the many factors that influence YOUR food supply.

And here, once more, is _____ of the _____ office of the Production and Marketing Administration. And what's on the agenda for today's discussion _____?

PMA: First, I'd like to outline the general background of the current meat shortage, and then add a little about the national scrap iron and steel drive now being conducted.

ANNOUNCER: Say, now, those are two subjects I know I want more information on--and probably so do most other people. About the first one --what has happened to our meat, anyway?

PMA: I might point out right at the start that the meat supply this year is expected to be about ten pounds more per civilian than in 1945. So it's obvious that the total meat production has not fallen off.

ANNOUNCER: You mean the steaks and roasts and hams we've been looking for have been around all the time and we didn't know it?

PMA: No, I don't mean exactly that. For one thing, even though this year's meat supply just about equals the record production of 1944, it still falls considerably short of what people could afford and would buy at ceiling prices.

ANNOUNCER: I believe that, all right.

PMA: And, far more important...the sudden drop in our meat supplies reflected an extremely uneven distribution this year.

ANNOUNCER: How did that happen?

PMA: Just like this. You recall, of course, that price controls were off livestock during the months of July and August. Well, during this period, farmers rushed great numbers of animals to market in order to take advantage of the higher prices.

ANNOUNCER: Then we had more meat than usual during those two months?

PMA: Yes...and correspondingly less meat in September. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, pointed out that after price ceilings were restored, the previous heavy market runs of light weight livestock dropped sharply.

ANNOUNCER: Light weight livestock? You mean the animals marketed ahead of time were under the normal weight for slaughtering?

PMA: That's it. For example, most of the pigs marketed during July and August were the 1946 spring crop, and they did not add much to our meat supply during those two months. Had they been fed longer and to heavier weights, they would have provided much more meat during September and October.

ANNOUNCER: In that case, I suppose it's better to hold back unfinished animals and have more meat in the long run.

PMA: That's about the way Secretary Anderson explains it. He remarked that instead of condemning the farmer for holding light weight livestock off the market, people should praise him. And he added these words: "Our need at the moment is to convert our record feed crops into meat rather than rush livestock to market before it is ready." Mister Anderson said that livestock men now are converting that feed--and that although the result may not be apparent for months to come, it will mean more meat than we otherwise would have.

ANNOUNCER: Is the present shortage entirely caused by what you have called the "uneven distribution" of meat this year?

PMA: Well, that one big reason. Late summer is normally a period of light marketings...and the heavy movement of animals occurring during July and August, merely shoved the normal scarcity period into September. In addition, September is normally the lightest marketing month of the year for hogs.

ANNOUNCER: Here's something I want to know, _____. Didn't we put some of that extra meat produced during the de-control period into storage? And, if so, why can't we draw some out now that we need it?

PMA: The fact of the matter is that we ate most of the meat produced from the large July and August marketings. Storage holdings on September 1st of this year were some 271 million pounds less than on the same date last year. Then, too, don't forget the Army estimates that it needs about 60 million pounds of meat a month.

(MORE)

PMA (Cont.): The army also reported it was far behind on purchases and low on supplies, and consequently has been issued priority certificates to meet its needs.

ANNOUNCER: Guess that just about takes care of the storage question. There's another thought though that has occurred to me. Are shipments of meat to foreign countries partly responsible for our shortage?

PMA: No, not at the present time. During the first half of 1946 large amounts of meat were procured to satisfy our foreign commitments. Since June 30th, only very small purchases have been made to fulfill obligations made previously. So you see, the shortage actually is being felt most acutely just when almost all production is going into domestic channels.

ANNOUNCER: Glad you cleared that point up, _____. I've wondered about it. Well, now that we've discussed some of the factors involved in the meat shortage, maybe you can give us an answer to that all-important question...WHEN WILL WE GET MORE MEAT?

PMA: I'm afraid I can't give a definite answer to that because meat still remains on the list of commodities in short supply. However, we expect some increase in the number of animals sold for slaughter in the next few weeks as more spring pigs and grass-fed cattle come to market. By November and December, the meat supply may be nearly normal for that time of year.

ANNOUNCER: You mentioned "grass-fed cattle"...._____, do they differ from other kind of cattle?

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PMA: Yes, indeed. Your best beef comes from grain-fed cattle which are usually marketed during the spring and summer months. The range and pasture stock which will reach market in the last months of this year, will afford only the lower grades of beef.

ANNOUNCER: And I suppose most of the grain-fed animals were marketed ahead of time during the "de-control" period.

PMA: About 6 percent more cattle went to market during July and August of this year than during the same months in 1945. In addition, the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt states August 1st was 45 percent below that of a year ago.

ANNOUNCER: Looks as if that's another explanation for the scarcity of beef.

PMA: I'd like to put in an optimistic note here about the current shortage--again a quote from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. In his broadcast of September 24th he said: "In the case of meat it is to the interest of the American public to see markets slowed up temporarily and meat hard to find while 52 million head of cattle and 58 million head of hogs convert 160 million tons of feed into top-grade beef and pork."

ANNOUNCER: Well, I guess that for a while yet the meat shortage will remain one of our major problems.

PMA: People notice the scarcity of meat most...but there's a shortage of another item which indirectly affects the supply of all agricultural products.

ANNOUNCER: What's that _____?

PMA: The shortage of scrap metal. We all realize, once we stop to think about it, that modern large-sized farms could not produce as they do without the aid of machinery and farm implements. And these are made of steel and iron. Right now, particularly

(MORE)

PMA (Cont.): farmers need to replace their worn-out equipment...but tractors, combines, cultivators and plows require a great amount of steel.

ANNOUNCER: The production of farm machinery hasn't stopped, has it?

PMA: No, but it has been slowed down by the shortage of scrap iron and steel. Every ingot of steel is half scrap...and thus it follows that scrap metal is the basic raw material of steel.

ANNOUNCER: That's logical enough...but I thought that steel mills usually kept a reserve stock of raw materials.

PMA: Stepped-up production during the war years depleted the normal reserve...and now recent reports show that leading steel centers have less than a two-weeks' supply of scrap metal on hand. In fact, some steel furnaces had only a 1 to 2-day supply left.

ANNOUNCER: That sounds like a serious situation.

PMA: It will become worse unless Americans pitch in and collect all the scrap iron and steel they can. The steel industry will require some 2 million tons of scrap metal a month for the next 6 months.

ANNOUNCER: I should think that the war which used up so much steel would provide scrap--as sort of a by-product.

PMA: The war naturally did leave a lot of scrap in its wake--and some of this now is coming back to this country. Battlefield scrap is returning at the rate of 20 thousand tons a month. But this is only a drop in the bucket--or perhaps I should say in the furnace--to the amount needed. For one thing, a general lack of labor is hampering the return of greater amounts of battlefield scrap metal.

ANNOUNCER: Has the government taken any definite steps to secure the scrap needed to turn out the peacetime goods we are all waiting for?

PMA: Yes, the scrap salvage campaign is being carried out on a comprehensive basis. The sources of supply of scrap metal can be divided into military and civilian. Under the first category, I already have mentioned the return of battlefield scrap...and in line with this, the Maritime Commission has urged operators of ships returning empty to this country to load as much military scrap as they can obtain for ballast.

ANNOUNCER: Speaking of the Maritime Commission, aren't there a lot of ships which could be scrapped for their metal?

PMA: That's right. Both the Navy and the Maritime Commission will make available several hundred surplus ships for scrap salvage.

ANNOUNCER: Still on the subject of ships, didn't I read recently that the Normandie is to be scrapped?

PMA: Right again. The Normandie's hull has been ordered scrapped... and this alone will yield 83 thousand 423 tons of steel.

ANNOUNCER: What other military sources of scrap are being tapped?

PMA: The Navy has ordered commanders of all navy yards and other installations to place all available scrap on sale immediately. The scrapping of navy ships will be speeded where it won't interfere with other urgent work. Further, all Navy machine tools which are no longer useful and have no commercial value will be scrapped.

ANNOUNCER: Seems as though the Navy and Army are doing their part...now what about civilian sources?

PMA: Industry provides about the best source of scrap iron and steel. During normal production times, the steel industry furnishes a large part of its own scrap. But the recent slowdowns in steel production have reduced the scrap accumulation.

ANNOUNCER: Then we must rely principally on other industries to round-up all their non-usable metal.

PMA: That's about it. At the present time, the railroads, the petroleum industry, mines, public utilities, and the automobile industry are being canvassed for scrap supplies.

ANNOUNCER: Let me see, now...there ought to be still more ways to collect scrap....

PMA: You'll find that our state and local governments are cooperating in the nationwide drive. Governor _____ (INSERT NAME OF GOVERNOR) has directed the State highway commission to search equipment yards for scrap metal. Governors of the other 47 states have done likewise. And on the local level, mayors of all cities and towns have been asked to comb municipal areas for iron and steel scrap.

ANNOUNCER: Is there anything the individual citizen can do to help?

PMA: The farmer, especially, can play an important part in the scrap salvage campaign. The steel industry wants what it calls "heavy molting scrap" --- castings and heavy pieces found on farms. Such metal is far superior to metal toys, tin cans and other lightweight items with a small metal content.

ANNOUNCER: Lightweight metal objects probably are about all that could be collected around a city dweller's home.

PMA: In most cases, yes. Steel companies regard farm scrap metal as most desirable for steel production. However, farmers should scrap only that metal which has no further use around the farm.

ANNOUNCER: Will the scrap iron and steel/^{the}farmers turn in be used to make new farm machinery?

PMA: Scrap metal gathered from farms cannot be channeled exclusively into the production of farm machinery--it simply would not be practicable. However, any scrap made available for steel production naturally will help increase the output of farm machinery.

ANNOUNCER: Where can farmers take the scrap they collect?

PMA: They can turn it over to local scrap dealers, or to farm machinery dealers. There are no organized facilities for collecting scrap from farms, but the Civilian Production Administration has requested farm machinery dealers to receive and make disposition of scrap metal.

ANNOUNCER: I suppose farmers could just throw some scrap into their cars or trucks on their regular trip to town.

PMA: That is probably the most feasible way to do it. The price for scrap cast iron has increased some, but prices for other scrap metal will remain unchanged for at least 6 months...Now before I conclude, let me again emphasize that this scrap metal is needed urgently. Unless more scrap is made available, steel production may drop as much as 30 percent...and without steel, where will we get new machinery -- and the highly prized products that machinery produces?

ANNOUNCER: Right you are! And our thanks to you _____, for a most enlightening talk. Friends, that was your Production and Marketing Administration representative, _____. YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD will be presented again next week at this same time. This broadcast, a public service feature over station _____, is presented for farm and city listeners in _____. Your announcer has been _____.

